

John Randolph to Andrew Jackson, October 29, 1831, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

JOHN RANDOLPH TO JACKSON.

Richmond, October 29, 1831.

My dear Sir, Your truly kind and valued letter of the 26th of October was received yesterday. It found me in a state of too great debility to permit me to thank you for it (as I do most cordially) by return of mail. In truth, since the dreadful night of Monday the 10th I have been sinking under a disease which has daily grown worse and I find myself at present in more wretched plight than when I landed at New York. I am detained here by the unaccountable non arrival of my horses, for which I wrote the day after my letter to you from N. York, and in due course of mail my letter ought to have reached my overseer on the 21st. My present condition is indeed most pitiable. My fever has not intermitted for three weeks. I think it is erysipelatous, from the eruptions on my body and limbs. My face has fortunately escaped, but the brain pays for it. Enough, indeed, too much, of this.

Be assured that it will afford me great pleasure to communicate with you by letter, during my absence. You will have yourself to blame, after your kind and flattering suggestion on this subject, if you have more of my letters to read than the calls upon your time may render quite convenient. How is it, my dear Sir, that you and the Secretary of state have so little sensibility, to my insolence and arrogance in slighting "my official superiors" and shewing my contemptuous scorn of them? and how kind and generous it is in Mr Walsh¹ and his co-labourers to resent these indignities for you?

¹ Robert Walsh, jr., editor of the *National Gazette* and of the *American Review*.

Library of Congress

In regard to the old Cabinet, I have been greatly deceived in one man, whom I believed to be personally devoted to you. With respect to the others, I never had but one opinion, and that caused me to regret that (with one exception) you were surrounded by such advisers. You and the country (with that exception) are happily rid of them. In regard to their successors, I only fear that Leviathan² has too many friends among them, and not only that monster in Chesnut Street, but the "American system" and internal improvements also. Every man is free to choose his principles, but as these opinions are diametrically opposed to mine, I cannot feel that cordiality towards their supporters (as public men) which I earnestly desire to extend to all connected with you. But this does not and cannot affect the sentiments of respect and regard with which I am and shall ever be, Dear Sir, your obliged and faithful friend and Servant

P. S. I beg to refer you to my letter of yesterday to Mr Livingston.

² The United States Bank.